

APPLICANT'S TRAVERSAL:

Applicant has amended claim 1 so as to recite that a portion of the guide  
member situated closest to the cassette is arranged at a predetermined distance from the  
base plate. Support can be found in the specification at least at page 4, lines 18-23.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 would not have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art over Snell, or any of the various combinations of references cited in the Final Office Action. Snell is completely silent with regard to the feature of a cassette holder, let alone suggests arrangement of guide portions therefore, as are all the combination of references. All of the dependent claims are allowable at least for dependence on claim 1, as well as an independent basis for patentability.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron Waxler  
Registration No. 48,027



By: Steve Cha  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 44,069

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**Mail all correspondence to:**  
Aaron Waxler, Registration No. 48,027  
US PHILIPS CORPORATION  
580 White Plains Road  
Tarrytown, NY 10591  
Phone: (914) 333-9609  
Fax: (914) 332-0615



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Karel-Jan Van Der Toon  
SERIAL NO.: 09/882,081 EXAMINER: Lee D. Wilson  
FILED: June 15, 2001 ART UNIT: 3723  
FOR: HOLDER FOR A SUBSTRATE CASSETTE AND DEVICE  
PROVIDED WITH SUCH A HOLDER

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
BOX AF  
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed on October 24, 2002, please amend  
the above-identified application as follows:

RECEIVED  
DEC 18 2002  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 17, with the following:

In accordance with the invention, also the side 7 of the guide member 3 facing the base plate 1 is embodied so as to taper inwards. As a result, the part of the guide 5 situated closest to the cassette 1 is at some distance from the base plate 3. By virtue thereof, on the one hand, the smallest distance between the guide 5 and the cassette 1 can be very small, for example, approximately 1 mm, which enables the cassette 1 to be very accurately positioned, while on the other hand, the cassette 1 can still be very readily positioned in the holder 10. Due to this construction, in particular, the risk that the

cassette 1 is obliquely positioned in the holder 10, i.e. tilted with respect to the base plate 3, is very small. If the cassette 1 is improperly positioned, a sensor 20, which is connected to the device **[but not shown in the drawing]** will not be activated. By virtue of all the above aspects, the risk that the cassette 1 is improperly positioned, for example with respect to moving parts of an apparatus, not shown in the drawing, of which holder 10 forms part, is very small. Such an apparatus is, for example, an apparatus which is customarily used in the manufacture of semiconductor products, such as an etch apparatus or photoresist apparatus. By virtue of said accurate positioning, the risk of damage to the cassette 1 and, in particular, to the substrates 2 is very small. Consequently, in the manufacture of semiconductor products comprising a holder 10 in accordance with the invention, such as ICs (=Integrated Circuits), the percentage of rejects is low, leading to a substantial reduction of the cost price.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A holder for a cassette for semiconductor material substrates (2) comprising a base plate on which a guide member is provided with at least two guides is secured, which cassette can be arranged between the guides, which enable the cassette to be aligned with respect to the base plate, and a first side of the guide member which is facing away from the base plate is embodied to as to taper inwards, wherein a second side of the guide member facing the base plate is also embodied so as to taper inwards, so that a portion of the guide member situated closest to the cassette is arranged at a predetermined distance from the base plate.